



Republican Policy Committee

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Clinton's Budget(s): "Read My Mind"

"Will the real Bill Clinton please stand up?"

Joseph Perkins, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, June 16, 1995

- Contestant #1 "I will present a five-year plan to balance the budget." — Bill Clinton (January 8, 1995)
- Contestant #2 "I think [balancing the budget] clearly can be done in less than 10 years." — Bill Clinton (May 20, 1995)
- Contestant #3 "It took decades to run up this deficit; it's going to take a decade to wipe it out." — Bill Clinton (June 13, 1995)

What Fellow Democrats Say About the Latest Clinton Budget:

"He's one of the most inadequate presidents we've ever had, but one of the best campaigners." — Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-SC (*Los Angeles Times*, 6-19-95)

"They cooked the numbers. . . . He needs to get back to the CBO numbers." — Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-NE (*Washington Times*, 6-26-95)

"I don't agree with the president's decision to propose Medicare cuts, but opening the door to deep Medicare cuts while the Republicans are struggling to pay for their huge tax breaks threatens to make Medicare a political football. The real losers will be the elderly and the families that support them." — House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-MO (*Washington Times*, 6-14-95)

"I think most of us learned sometime ago that if you don't like the president's position on a particular issue, you simply need to wait a few weeks. If you can follow this White House on the budget, you are a whole lot smarter than I am." — Chairman House Appropriations Committee Rep. David Obey, D-WI (*Associated Press*, 6-13-95)

"My question is, with friends like these, does the White House need any enemies?" — Chairman House Appropriations Committee Rep. David Obey, D-WI (*CNN, Inside Politics*, 6-13-95)

"I don't know what's going to happen to the (Clinton) proposal, it doesn't seriously address . . . the underlying problems that we have right now with our budget." — Senator Bob Kerrey, D-NE (*Associated Press*, 6-14-95)

"It's a quantum leap backward for social policy, and it will have long-lasting explosive results." — Rep. Donald M. Payne, D-NJ (*Washington Post*, 6-14-95)

"To get into a game where they cut Medicare and we cut Medicare, further confuses the issue, as far as the American people are concerned." — Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-CA (*CNN, Inside Politics*, 6-13-95)

"I've been jumping off a bridge every night for the (Administration) saying you shouldn't cut Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich. When I jumped this morning, somebody forgot to tie my bungee rope to the bridge." — Rep. Pete Stark, D-CA (*Dallas Morning News*, 6-14-95)

I don't think that getting into this level of detail does him any good and buys him some harm." — Rep. Charles Schumer, D-NY (*New York Post*, 6-14-95)

"We were just doing fine without his intervention." — Rep. Jim Oberstar, D-MN (*CBS*, 6-14-95)

The View from Outside the Beltway:

"There are times when a president's needs and the needs of his party's congressional leadership diverge and this is one of those occasions. The President needs to get back in the ball game." — Al From, President of the Democratic Leadership Council (*Associated Press*, 6-14-95)

"But to say that the Nation should stretch out balancing its budget over the next 10 years, as President Clinton now proposes, is simply insufficient leadership." — (Editorial, *Dallas Morning News*, 6-16-95)

"Worse, from a Democrat standpoint, the proposal is bunk — a slapdash document riddled with gimmicks from the book of budget fudgery. Rosy Scenario plays a pivotal role." — Tony Snow (*Detroit News*, June 22, 1995)

"The Administration's statistical sleight of hand enables the White House to overlook \$858 billion in expected deficits during the next 10 years. The President lowered the bar and then gracefully stepped over it." — Robert Reischauer, former Congressional Budget Office director (*Detroit News*, 6-22-95)

"I don't think one can say the Administration is guilty of terminal rosy scenario-itis, but its projections are on the optimistic side, and if achieving balance is an important objective, Congress's assumptions are certainly more prudent." — Robert Reischauer (*Washington Post*, 6-18-95)

"Funny thing about those elusive 'out years' They never seem to arrive." — Martha Phillips, executive director of the Concord Coalition (*Washington Post*, 6-18-95)

"His recent speech endorsing a balanced budget was on the order of Julia Child backing the Pritikin Diet." — Mona Charen (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 6-25-95)

"If balancing the budget is as important as he now says it is, why didn't he submit one in February, instead of the deficit-ridden plan he proposed?" — Donald Lambro (*Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 6-23-1995)

"A footnote: On the morning after Clinton's switch, only two obscure Democrats made one-minute speeches in the House backing Clinton's budget. Normally after the President speaks, a long line of Democrats — including members of the leadership — takes the floor to applaud Clinton." — Robert Novak (*Chicago Sun Times*, 6-18-95)

". . . the new Clinton budget plan is just another example of playing me-too politics on issues of singular importance to them." — Jack Germond-Jules Witcover (*Baltimore Sun*, 6-15-95)

"Clinton's plan pales compared to the Republican program." — (Editorial, *Charleston Daily Mail*, 6-14-95)

"Of course, the President's "alternative" balanced-budget plan is the usual smoke and mirrors. It promises to wipe out the annual deficit by 2005, but not even Hollywood accountants would try to get away with Clinton's numbers." — Joseph Perkins (Editorial, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, 6-16-95)

"Riddle: How is it possible to lead by following? Answer: Watch President Bill Clinton and do as he does." — Tom Brazaitis (*The Plain Dealer*, 6-18-95)

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